

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (New) A swinging apparatus characterized by comprising:

 a mount connected to a seat position in which a passenger can sit;

 a base member attached to a floor panel of a car body so as to rotatively movable around a vertical axis, the base member being displaceable between a forward position where the seat position is directed toward a front of the vehicle and a position along a direction in which an opening in the vehicle is open;

 a swing arm having a connection portion at one end which is connected to the base member via a driving shaft serving as a horizontal rotating shaft and having a connection portion at the other end which is connected to the mount via a connection shaft placed parallel to the driving shaft, the swing arm being, in a set position where the mount is displaced on the base member, diagonally placed between the mount and the base member, the swing arm enabling the seat portion to swing to an interior or exterior of a compartment through the opening when a swinging operation is performed around the driving shaft to move the mount upward or downward and forward or backward; and

 a posture holding portion that, while the swing arm is performing a swinging operation, makes a direction in which the swing arm swings around the driving shaft, opposite to a direction in which the mount rotatively moves around the connection shaft, to hold the mount in a horizontal posture.

Claim 8 (New) The swinging apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that the posture holding portion comprises a fixed sprocket fixed to one of the connection portions of the base member and mount, a movable sprocket rotatively movably supported by the other connection portion, and an annular belt that joins the fixed sprocket and the movable sprocket together.

Claim 9 (New) A swinging apparatus characterized by comprising:

 a rotatively moving portion comprising a base member and a bearing portion that rotatively movably supports the base member;

a swinging portion comprising a driving shaft disposed so that an axis of the driving shaft is directed in a horizontal direction with respect to the base member and a swing arm attached to a shaft end of the driving shaft so as to be rotatively movable integrally with the driving shaft; and

a driving portion that rotates the driving shaft around an axis of the driving shaft, and

in that a link mechanism is interposed between the rotatively moving portion and the swinging portion to link a swinging operation of the swing arm to a rotatively moving operation of the base member, and

the link mechanism comprises a vertical rotating shaft that extends in a direction parallel to a direction in which a rotating center axis of the base member extends, a transmitting portion that can transmit rotary motion around the vertical rotating shaft to the base member, and a converting portion that directionally converts rotary motion around the driving shaft into rotary motion around the vertical rotating shaft.

Claim 10 (New) The swinging apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the converting portion comprises a horizontal gear fitted around the horizontal rotating driving shaft so as to be rotatively movable integrally with the driving shaft and a vertical gear supported around the vertical rotating shaft so as to be rotatively movable integrally with the vertical rotating shaft, the vertical gear being engageable with the horizontal gear, the vertical rotating shaft being provided in the base member.

Claim 11 (New) The swinging apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the transmitting portion comprises a rotating sprocket fixed to the vertical rotating shaft so as to be rotatively movable integrally with the vertical rotating shaft, a fixed sprocket fixed to a rotating center shaft of the base member, and an annular belt that joins the rotating and fixed sprockets together.

Claim 12 (New) The swinging apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the base member is attached to a floor panel of a car body, a seat portion in which a passenger can sit is connected to a mount, and the seat portion is projected out of or

retracted into a vehicle while being turned from a forward position in which the seat portion is directed toward a front of the vehicle, to an opening in the vehicle, by means of a rotatively moving operation of the rotatively moving portion and a swinging operation of the swinging portion,

when the seat portion is in the forward position, the swing arm diagonally positions the base member and the mount located above the base member but can be almost inverted around the driving shaft, and

when the seat portion is in a loading and unloading position outside the vehicle, the swing arm positions the base member located inside the vehicle and the mount projecting out of the vehicle so as to be positioned toward the exterior of the vehicle.